

City of Portage
Municipal Services and Utilities Committee Meeting
(This meeting will constitute a meeting of the Legislative and Regulatory Committee as a quorum of members will be present; but no business of that committee will be taken up.)
Thursday, April 3, 2014 5:30 p.m.
Municipal Building, 115 West Pleasant Street, Conference Room One
Minutes

Members Present: Jeff Garetson, Chairperson; Carolyn Hamre, Doug Klapper, Frank Miller, and Rita Maass

Others Present: Bill Welsh, Cable TV; Craig Sauer; Portage Daily Register; Bob Redelings, Director of Public Works; Tammy O'Leary, Public Works Secretary; Shawn Murphy, City Administrator; Steve Sobiek, Director of Business Development and Planning.

1. Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Approval of meeting minutes from previous meeting.

Motion by Klapper, second by Miller to approve minutes from the March 6, 2014 meeting.

Roll Call. Passed 5-0.

3. Discussion and possible action on request by Peggy Gustafson for a credit on her sewer bill at 302 E. Winnebago St. for January, 2014.

Hamre stated according to the email no claim was filed with the contractor. Hamre suggested filing the claim with the contractor first since the issue arose from the faulty equipment. Maass agreed that a claim should be made with the contractor and not with the City.

Maass made a motion to deny the request for a sewer credit for 302 E. Winnebago St. for January 2014 second by Hamre.

Roll Call. Passed 5-0.

4. Discussion and possible action on brush collection policy.

Redelings suggested reviewing the revised brush collection policy because of the proposed changes during the budget process. After some discussion, It was agreed that the City would perform monthly brush collection during the first full week from May through November.

Also, the Airport Road Site would only be for City residents and the only materials to be disposed include grass clippings, leaves, and yard waste-products that would be converted to compost. Wood chips resulting from tree trimming would also be permitted. Wood chips and compost would be available to city residents free of charge.

All brush, trees and stumps would be accepted at the former City landfill on Currie Road. The site would be open during regular brush collection periods and during the

first Friday and Saturday of each month. Property owners could also contact the Public Works Department for special collections.

Murphy indicated that staff would develop costs associated with operating the Currie Road Site and provide fee recommendations at the next Committee meeting. No action taken at this time.

5. Review and discussion on proposed US 51 reconstruction.

Redelings indicated he and Administrator Murphy met with the DOT and their consultant, SEH, to review preliminary typical cross sections for the Corridor. The DOT would appreciate the Committee's feedback by ranking the alternatives.

Redelings mentioned that because of the federal funding, sidewalks and bike lanes would be required. Because there's a walkway on the levee and no businesses on the South side of E. Wisconsin St. South of Brady St., there's a very good chance that a sidewalk won't be required due to the absence of need.

Two typical sections were presented for Dewitt Street;

Alternative 1 included 2 bike lanes with the elimination of parking on the east side of the Street- a loss of 13 parking stalls.

Redelings mentioned that the DOT's sensitive to the loss of on street parking and is investigating potential off-street parking options.

Alternative 2 also included 2 bike lanes while retaining the parking on both sides of the street. However this alternative reduced the effective sidewalk widths to 5 feet. This alternative doesn't allow for street-scaping and may not be feasible because of the need for street signs and lights.

The Committee concurred that alternative 2 wasn't feasible but requested further study as to which side of the street the parking should be removed.

Redelings also mentioned that a one-way north was initially considered, but disregarded when it was determined westbound semi traffic on Cook Street (HWY 33) wouldn't be able to make the South-bound movement at W. Wisconsin Street (Hwy 16). It was suggested that the DOT still consider the one-way north scenario between Cook Street and Pleasant Street.

Redelings presented three typical sections for East Wisconsin Street, noting that intersection layouts and access considerations would be the subject of future design meetings. Each alternative has an "A" and "B" component-The "A" holding the street centerline where it currently exists and the "B" holding the South Right of way line where it currently exists. There may be some flexibility if there is space to move the street toward levee.

Alternative 4, the TWLTL was discussed first. Redelings indicated that this alternative only had a level of service classified as a "C", but was still being considered until the intersections were examined in more detail. Garetson said that because E. Wisconsin

St. was the Alternate I-39 route; he didn't think a TWLTL was feasible recognizing the past problems from issues occurring on I-39. The Committee was in agreement.

Redelings indicated Alternatives 2 and 3 were similar, but Alternative 2 was less disruptive, requiring 4 feet less because of integral bike lanes with the curb and gutter. He mentioned that the benefit of Alternative 3 is that the additional space at intersections permits more efficient traffic movements.

Redelings suggested Alternative 2 would primarily impact some business signs within the Right of Way. On the hand, Alternative 3 would require the relocation of many more signs and two buildings.

Director Sobiek spoke about the long range benefits of Alternative 3. Once constructed, the DOT will not revisit the corridor for 50 years. The City needs to consider their vision for the corridor, the make-up of potential development and street-scaping considerations as it's gateway from the South.

The committee agreed that Alternative 3 was the preferred alternative followed by Alternative 2. Additionally they requested that the levee walk be considered the bike lane on the South side. The roadway should be placed as close to the levee as permitted.

6. Public Works Directors Report.

Redelings discussed the issues that have been ongoing with the water main on New Pinery Rd. The water main is only 3 to 3 ½ feet deep. Because the main is so shallow, the pipe is frozen and keeps breaking, leaving some residents/businesses without water. The main had to be capped in two locations to keep customers in service. The main needs to be replaced and positioned at least 3 feet deeper to prevent freezing in the future. Cold patch will be placed in the pot holes until the main can be repaired properly.

Redelings stated he attended the ground water symposium sponsored by the county. The presentation was very informative and has useful information the City could use. Murphy stated the new ground water model has bigger and better tools to utilize for the protection of the City wells. Redelings indicated the County will be examining the well head protection areas for all municipal wells in the County. He will contact the County to obtain a priority ranking for Portage's 4 wells.

7. Adjournment

Motion by Miller, second by Maass to adjourn the meeting at 6:47pm. Motion carried unanimously on call of roll.

Prepared by Tammy O'Leary, Public Works Secretary.